

ADDRESS BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, AT GRADUATING EXERCISES, BOB
JONES UNIVERSITY, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA,
MAY 31, 1949.

The amazing progress this institution has made
during, ~~and since~~ ^{it didn't take time if he been} in South Carolina is a record of commendable

achievement. Such an accomplishment is a fitting culmination to
the notable career of its Great Founder, Dr. Bob Jones, and a
testimony to the ability and energy of his splendid son, President
Bob Jones, Jr.

It is a pleasure to me, too, to extend, in the
name of the people of South Carolina, a warm welcome to the
distinguished citizen from our neighboring nation to the north,
Premier Manning, of Alberta, Canada. We can truthfully say to
Premier Manning that Americans love his people, and that they are
always welcome in South Carolina. We are honored to have as our
guest this world-famous man.

Every American should rejoice at the opportunity to
take part in commencement exercises at an independent American
university. For the role of the independent educational institution
in the United States today is more vital than it has ever been.
The tendency of the independent college to nourish and perpetuate
American ideals of freedom through education has been, and is today,
a bulwark of our democracy.

We cannot ever permit any encroachment upon the

sanctity of our educational institutions, for we must look to them to hand down to our children the ideals and principles of our democratic way of life. We must depend upon them, in large measure, to perpetuate human freedom as we know it.

I need not remind you that human freedom is under attack in many parts of the world today. The struggle encompasses us all. No one can escape. Every free man is offered his choice between two struggling ideologies -- the way of democracy, and the way of Communism.

Because of that struggle, Americans have acquired the responsibility of making certain that the democratic way remains paramount. For the sake of human freedom, we cannot let the bloody rule of the totalitarians sweep over the world. No one can say where this duty will lead us. We can only pray that it may be carried out short of war.

If we are to perform that duty to human freedom, we must begin where charity begins -- here at home. For the insidious methods of the totalitarians are beginning to make serious threats among our own people. They are gaining ground within our own borders, and we must recognize them and purge them as best we can.

There are two courses of action very clearly open to us. One of these is to educate our own people (and through them the world) in the basic concepts and the underlying principles

of democracy. The other is to demonstrate, beyond the possibility of confusion, the advantages offered by the democratic way, as compared with that of Communism.

On the surface, these statements may appear to be true. On the contrary, they will bear study. Americans have been too prone to forget the ideals which have made their freedom possible. We have grown too lax in holding those ideals up to the light, so that not only the outside world, but our own children, may see them and know them.

One of the best methods by which we may educate our own people in the foundation principles of democracy is to offer good, strong courses in American history in our schools. This will require accurate, factual textbooks, telling the simple glorious story of American liberty. In recent years, too many subtle, foreign ideas have been creeping into our textbooks. There has been far too much use of the "debunking" technique, by which American heroes are belittled, and American ideals are explained away by false theories. We must return to the inspiring, unadorned and unmixd story of our history and those who made it.

It is surprising how little knowledge many Americans have of their own history. A recent survey of 700 colleges and universities, including 600,000 students, showed that 82 per cent did not require American history courses. Of the 700 schools, 72

per cent did not demand American history as a prerequisite for entrance. Only 9 per cent of the 600,000 students questioned were taking such courses. And 25 per cent of them did not know that Lincoln was President during the War Between the States. In fact, 25 students said George Washington was President at that time. Out of one senior class of 250, the survey found that only 19 knew what year the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Such a condition does not make for the kind of militant Americanism necessary to compete with the determined efforts of the Communists who are working inside our borders. Americans must know the price of their liberty, in order to value it. They must know that the Bill of Rights was bought with blood, and preserved with blood.

On the other hand, you may be sure the Russians know the value of education. One of their first moves after the 1917 revolution was to seize control of the schools, for Lenin had said: "The school must become the weapon of the proletariat." Later Stalin added these words: "Education is a weapon whose effect depends upon who holds it in his hands, and at whom it is aimed."

Today, the Soviets are spending 8 per cent of their income on education. In the U. S. we spend only 2 per cent on our schools. In Russia, school enrollment has now reached 50,000,000, and thousands are being added every month. Every Russian child

is being taught that the State is the master, and that the individual means nothing. Every Russian child is being trained for a role in the scheme to spread Communism throughout the world.

As part of that scheme, young Communists are being taught to hate and despise Americans. Recently two young Russian fliers who escaped and came to this country declared that the Red Army now teaches its men to speak of Americans as "the enemy." In Communist thinking, the United States has replaced Germany as the major obstacle in the path of Soviet conquest.

In the light of Russia's use of education as a weapon, we in America must somehow revitalize our own educational system, so as to charge it with a more positive conception of the great values of the democratic way. We must develop a curriculum which supports and strengthens belief in democracy, and which cultivates a more vigorous devotion to our common heritage, remembering that in the long run, ideas rule the world.

Having educated our youth to become militant advocates of democracy, we must also carry out for their benefit our second great responsibility-- we must demonstrate in unmistakable terms the vast advantages offered by the American way over that of Communism.

The difference between our ideology and that of the Soviets

is a very simple one: They believe that the individual exists to serve the State. We believe that the State exists to serve the individual. It is as simple as that, and yet it represents the difference between human slavery and human freedom.

Of all the people who ever lived, only about 3 per cent have known real freedom. Americans are free because we have developed a philosophy of respect for the individual, under a government that functions by and with that individual's consent. It is a creed of individual enterprise. Some call it capitalism; some private enterprise. Whatever you call it, our system is one which permits the maximum development of creative energy in the man.

As such, it is in direct opposition to Communism, under which the State is the supreme master over the lives of its citizens.

Under pure Communism:

The government has absolute power over all the people, and over all means for producing wealth.

No one can own any property.

No one can choose his own work, or strike against his boss.

Everyone is forced to save--but for the State, not for his family.

There are no churches, and a belief in God is forbidden.

There is no freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or freedom of assembly, and trial by jury is abolished.

Those are some of the precepts of pure Communism. But since the Reds got control of Russia in 1918, this system has quickly--and inevitably--developed into a dictatorship by 13 men in the Kremlin. Stalin and his cohorts are supreme masters over the Russian people. A mere hint of criticism of Stalin is enough to send a man to slavery in Siberian mines for ten years or for life.

In Russia a tobacco factory foreman whose machines were alleged to be turning out faulty cigarettes during 1948 was sent to prison for seven years. In another Soviet factory, a production manager was given five years in prison for producing clothing which was claimed to be inferior.

Such harsh methods are excused with the statement that they lead to greater production. That is far from the truth.

Let us examine some of the actual facts about Soviet production, as compared with that of free men in the United States.

Experts say that Russia has about the same potentialities for producing oil as we do. Yet in a quarter-century up to 1947, Russia produced only 3 billion barrels of oil, while we produced 28 billion barrels.

Before the war, Russia mined 757 kilograms of coal per capita annually, compared to 3,429 per capita for the U. S.. Russia produced 200,000 cars and trucks a year in prewar days, as compared

to nearly 5,000,000 a year in the U. S.. The Soviet people before the war consumed only two-fifths as much sugar per capita, one-fourth as much clothing, and two-fifths as many shoes as Americans.

Today, the Russians own 5,000,000 radio sets; Americans own 34,000,000. Russians have 1,275,000 telephones; Americans have 27,000,000.

Moreover, the quality of the goods produced by Communism is usually inferior. To quote from "The Russian Enigma," by William H. Chamberlain: "Although it is a criminal offense, under Soviet law, to put defective goods on the market, the quality of Soviet suits, shoes, phonographs, tennis rackets, and other goods..... is far below what would be considered normal in western countries."

It is per capita production which finally counts most in determining what the worker receives for his labor. In America the worker's share is high; in Russia it is very low. As a matter of fact, in the United States in the past 30 years, 88 per cent of our national income has been paid to persons earning less than \$5,000 a year. It is wise to remember this fact, when you hear false propaganda about the free enterprise system.

A paragraph from a reliable reporter, W. L. White, sums up

conditions of slavery under which the Soviet worker exists:

"A Russian belongs to his job. He and his family usually sleep in an apartment which his factory owns. He probably eats in his factory dining room, food raised on his factory's farm. His children attend a day nursery which it maintains. They play games and go to the movies in its culture palace, and they go on vacations, when it can spare them, on trains which it designates, to resorts and workers' rest homes which it controls."

And just let that poor worker step out of line, and he is shipped off to the forced labor camps, perhaps to die quickly of exposure or starvation. Estimates vary as to how many Russians are now enslaved, but W. L. White estimates that there are 14,000,000.

By contrast with the slave-like condition of the working man in Russia, the American people, with less population than many other countries, have created more wealth and distributed it more evenly than any nation at any time. We have more and better churches, schools, libraries, hospitals, and recreational facilities than any other people. We have done more than any other people to eliminate child labor practices, and to eliminate back-breaking drudgery. We have gone further in spreading literacy, enlightenment on

health, and general well-being than any others.

The American college graduate going out into the world today to make his own way will enjoy more benefits than a citizen of any other country on earth. For the American people, with only 7 per cent of the world's population, own 85% of the world's automobiles, 60% of the world's life insurance, 54% of the world's telephones, 48% of the world's radio sets, 46% of the world's electric power capacity, 35% of the world's railway mileage, 30% of the world's improved highways, and 92% of the world's modern bathtubs.

These figures are enough to convince any college-trained American that opportunities are greater under our system of free enterprise than under any other way of life the world offers.

Unfortunately, however, very few Americans have taken the trouble to learn the facts about the Communist system as compared with the American system. Many Americans have listened eagerly to the lies that the Communists are spreading. We do not know how many Americans have been won over. A few of the facts are known. A recent survey made of one large company's employees showed that 24% of them

believed the industry would be better off under government ownership, and that 9% of the employees thought it would fare just as well under government ownership.

American Communists are now openly defying our government. You have read the statement of the Negro singer, Paul Robeson, in which he said that American Negroes would not fight Russia. Some other Communists have been equally frank.

It must be taken for granted that the majority of those who fall for the siren appeals of the Communists, do so for one of two reasons: Either because of ignorance, or because they hope to become one of the few bosses who will rule America if the Reds should take over.

One of the latter type is William Z. Foster, head of the conspiracy known as the "Communist Party of the United States." Here is what Foster predicts for America: "Under the dictatorship, all the capitalistic parties-- Republican, Democratic, Progressive, Socialist, etc.-- will be liquidated, the Communist party functioning alone as the party of the toiling masses. Likewise will be dissolved all the other organizations that are political props of the bourgeois rule, including chambers of commerce, employers' associations, Rotary clubs, American Legion, Y.M.C.A., and such fraternal

orders as the Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, Knights of Columbus, etc." That is what Communist Foster thinks he can do to America.

This is just so much silly talk; but I am convinced that Americans should be on guard against those forces which seek to undermine our form of government and our way of life. We must educate our young people in the ideals of Americanism and demonstrate to them the superior advantages offered by democratic governments, and above all, inculcate into them a deeper appreciation of what it means to be free.

We are a sovereign people under God; we must so conduct ourselves. As one old-time Speaker of the House of Representatives said:

"If the people are indeed to be sovereigns, they must exercise their sovereignty over themselves.... imposing upon themselves....the discipline of virtue, in place of the discipline of slavery."

A grave responsibility for leadership and preserving the sovereignty of our people and destroying any threat of communism rests upon the shoulders of our trained men and women. They, more than anyone else, should bear the leadership against the spreading threat of communism in the world today.

As an educated person, today's college graduate has greater opportunities in America than any man ever had before in history. But along with those opportunities goes the challenge of a great obligation-- an obligation to oppose the spread of totalitarian philosophy and human slavery, whether it is found beyond our borders or within our own country.

America's future, to a large extent, rests with her college men and women. They constitute our most fortunate class in American society. They cannot, they must not, they will not, let America down.